Constitutional rights for SCs and STs

4118. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) why there is no focus on the serious issues concerning rights of SCs in particular in the matter of manual scavenging, filling up of the backlog at State level and prevention of atrocities in rural India; and

(b) why the various reports submitted by the National Commissions for SCs and STs are not discussed in Parliament?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has formulated Self Employment Scheme for Rehabilitation of manual Scavengers *w.e.f.* January, 2007. The scheme provides for training, capital subsidy and concessional loan for rehabilitation of manual scavengers and their dependents. A provision of Rs. 100.00 crore has been provided under the scheme for the year 2008-09.

In addition to this under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for implementation of Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955, and the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, due central assistance is also provided to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for strengthening the enforcement and judicial machinery, inter caste marriages, awareness generation and relief and rehabilitation of the affected persons.

(b) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) submitted its 1st Annual Report for the year 2004-05 and its first Special Report for the period 01.04.2006 to 30.09.2006. Annual Reports for the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are yet to be submitted.

The recommendations of the NCST in their report for the year 2004-05 & 2005-06 submitted to the President in August, 2006, have been referred to the concerned State Governments/Union Territory Administration and various Central Ministries/Departments for taking necessary action and obtaining action taken reports respectively.

Atrocities on SCs

4119. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not discussing the reports submitted by the National Commission for Scheduled Castes during the last four years of presenting the same to Lok Sabha;

(b) whether the Ministry is aware of the increase in the cases of atrocities on SCs in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh; and

(c) if so, what action is proposed by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) The National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) has submitted 1st Annual Report for the year 2004-05 and its First Special Report for the period 01.04.2006 to 30.9.2006.

Annual Reports for the years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 are yet to be submitted.